

Diego County remains a relevant economic, social, and political force in Southern California.

Dr. Blair strongly believed in the mission of BAPAC: to work for the maximum effective representations of Black people in the political, economic, and educational systems of San Diego County and find solutions to issues related to jobs, education, and healthcare.

In 2017, he was elected as BAPAC's President where he continued his work in civil and human rights and used his stature to promote quality leadership in the community.

Dr. Blair devoted his life to bridging the achievement gap for ethnic and minority groups and elevate the positive educational outcomes of disenfranchised communities.

Dr. Blair devoted his life to mentoring leaders in the black community ensuring status within the Democratic party and in other institutions and he was passionate about reaching common ground among Latinos, Asians, and other ethnic and minority groups.

Dr. Blair is survived by his daughter, U.S. Airforce Officer Deborah Smith, siblings Janet, Trece and Roger, and several nieces and nephews.

**HONORING FRANCESCO GENUARDI
FOR HIS TENURE AS CONSUL
GENERAL OF ITALY IN NEW
YORK**

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Francesco Genuardi, who after five years of admirable service as the Consul General of Italy in New York, has been designated Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Mr. Genuardi, who is married with two daughters, is an Italian diplomat with over 27 years of professional experience. Born in Brussels on July 7, 1967, he graduated with a degree in Law from the University of Milan in 1991.

He joined Italy's diplomatic service in 1993, and for the next five years worked at the European Union's Directorate-General for Economic Affairs, where he dealt with international issues of importance associated with environmental protection and safety.

From 1998 to 2002, he served as Deputy Consul at the Consulate General in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From 2002 through 2005, he returned to his native Brussels to serve as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Mr. Genuardi returned to Rome in 2005 and began an eleven-year tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working with seven succeeding Ministers as a liaison officer for parliament. In 2014, Mr. Genuardi was appointed by then Minister Paolo Gentiloni to serve as head of the Office for Parliamentary Relations of the Italian Foreign Ministry.

In March of 2016, Mr. Genuardi was appointed Consul General of Italy in New York, covering the states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, as well as the territory of Bermuda, which collectively have a population of nearly 100,000 Italian residents and over 3 million Italian Americans.

During his tenure at the Consulate General of Italy in New York, Mr. Genuardi demonstrated a special attention towards all of the Italian and Italian American people of New York and the Tri-State area by actively engaging with the many existing Italian and Italian American associations, and contributing to the creation of new interest groups related to culture, education, athletics, and more.

Mr. Genuardi also contributed greatly to the budding careers of young Italians and Italian Americans through the Consulate's "Meet the New Italians" program, a series of workshops and professional development seminars aimed at Italian professionals.

Mr. Genuardi's commendable tenure in New York and lifetime of diplomatic service leaves no doubt that he will take on his new role in Brussels with professionalism, grace, and resolve. His presence will be deeply missed among the Tri-State Italian American community. I am proud to rise today in recognition of the career and service of Francesco Genuardi, incoming Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Belgium.

**IN RECOGNITION OF EDWIN
GOTWALT**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Edwin Gotwalt, a beloved member of the central Pennsylvania community.

Mr. Gotwalt was born May 20, 1936 in York County. His strong work ethic began early, as he took his first job at the age of six to help support his family. After a career as a manager at Giant Food Stores, he founded Mister Ed's Elephant Museum and Candy Emporium.

Mr. Ed owned and operated this iconic candy shop from 1975 until he retired in 2004. After his retirement, Mr. Ed sought out opportunities to encourage and mentor the next generation of the business community. He also was a dedicated member of the community. Mr. Ed served on many community boards, including his beloved Totem Pole Playhouse.

After a remarkable life, Mr. Ed passed away on February 26, 2021—the same day that marked his 54th wedding anniversary to his wife Patricia and the 46th anniversary of founding his business. It is a pleasure to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ed Gotwalt for his many accomplishments and contributions to our region. I offer my condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones as they mourn this great loss.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILL
BAKER**

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Will Baker as he retires after more than 40 years as director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

(CBF), the nation's premier nonprofit Bay watchdog. Guided by its mission to "Save the Bay," the CBF strives to ensure that future generations may have the privilege of enjoying this national treasure.

Mr. Baker began his career at the CBF as an intern in 1976, shortly after graduating from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Just five years later, in 1981, he was appointed as the organization's next president. Under his leadership, the foundation has grown from a small organization with three staffers to the nation's largest independent conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay. The CBF now boasts 300,000 members and 200 employees in offices located in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. CBF oversees 16 separate environmental education centers throughout the region that host an award-winning program that has provided meaningful watershed experiences to more than 1 million students.

With Mr. Baker at the helm, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has received well-deserved recognition for its outstanding work. Most notably, the CBF received the 1992 Presidential Medal for Environmental Excellence, the nation's most prestigious environmental accolade.

Mr. Baker has been recognized by organizations too numerous to mention in their entirety. He has received honorary degrees from the University of Baltimore, Washington College and St. Mary's College. He was presented the Circle of Excellence Award by The Daily Record, named to Baltimore Magazine's Power 50, and received the Speaker's Medal from the Maryland House of Delegates.

Outside of his work for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mr. Baker has contributed his time and talents as a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Executive Committee, as a trustee to the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and as a member of the Board of Visitors to the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

On a personal note, I have deeply enjoyed getting to know and working with Mr. Baker over the years. He is not just a passionate and effective steward of one of our nation's most precious resources, he is a kind and decent person. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor the career of Mr. Will Baker. His commitment to the betterment of his community and to the Chesapeake Bay should serve as an example to us all.

**McENTIRE JOINT NATIONAL
GUARD BASE IS CRUCIAL**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Friday I visited dedicated men and women of the South Carolina National Guard serving at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. McEntire serves critical state and national security missions, most recently spearheading the effort to quickly distribute Wuhan Virus vaccines. It is an excellent site for placement of F-35 aircraft.

McEntire is home to the 169th Fighter Wing "Swamp Foxes," some of the most capable pilots